

# **MINUTES FROM THE SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE**

**AUGUST 17, 2006**

PRESENT: Susan Waite, Recycling Coordinator; Pat Church, Chair; Harvey Allen, Marianne Lorenzelli, Clare Bertrand, Meg Vickery; Rebecca Treitley, Chartwells Manager; Elaine Brighty, School Committee.

The meeting began with a discussion of the presentation before the Select Board by Meg, Pat and Susan. An audio problem during the meeting led to a misunderstanding in the community about the extent of Chartwell's use of Styrofoam. In addition, Elaine felt that the Solid Waste Committee should have discussed their concerns with Jere Hochman and/or the School Committee before the Select Board presentation. Discussion followed during which committee members communicated that the mistake was due to naiveté, not malice, and we will be sure to have better communication with the school district in the future.

Rebecca Trietley expressed her commitment to working with the Committee. She also explained that Chartwells is contracted to do specific things for a set price, and the Committee should speak with District leadership/the School Committee to make adjustments to that contract. Part of the problem is that the reusable plastic trays disappear during the school year, causing a shortage. She has a budget each year to replace trays, and has purchased 1,000 for the coming school year.

Susan summarized the composting program and its ailments, reporting that we were on a three-month probation, but that we were intensifying our educational efforts with the video, flyers to staff and custodians and parents and an educational piece to follow up later in October. Rebecca agreed that the compost coaches were a vital tool in the process. Elaine reminded the committee to start with Jere Hochman, the superintendent, when we need support from the principals and expressed dismay about the presentation to the Select Board.

It was agreed that Jere Hochman should see the film first.

The plan to purchase compostable bags was cancelled due to high cost.

The bags must be labeled to identify each school's waste.

## **UPDATES:**

It was agreed to participate in the upcoming Energy Fair on October 7.

Susan brought up the idea of focusing on Bank One and their recycling to set up a model for other in-town businesses.

She will also write a technical assistance grant proposal to be submitted by September 15.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 14, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Vickery, clerk pro tem